REBECCA SPIT PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:

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Date: Feb. 8/03

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Date: Feb. 24/03

REBECCA SPIT PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Rebecca Spit Park is to protect a recreational opportunity on Quadra Island. Rebecca Spit is a popular day use park on Quadra Island that serves both residents and visitors to the island. Three kilometres of hiking trails, 34 picnicking sites, a boat lunch, two beaches and several parking lots facilitate recreational activities such as community events, hiking, kayaking, picnicking, swimming, and fishing. A private campground next door complements the park as a recreation destination on the island.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect the natural environment in which people come to recreate. Given the size of this park, it makes a small contribution to the protection of the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection (SOG). This ecosection has been highly modified through development and settlement and is under-represented within the protected areas system at 5.35%. In total, 22 small parks assist in providing representation of the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection.

In protecting the marine environment, the park makes a small contribution to the protection of both the Johnstone Strait and the Strait of Georgia *Marine* ecosections. Both of these are under-represented with only 3.7% and 0.94% protected respectively.

The park also contributes to protecting an example of the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) xm1 biogeoclimatic variant, which has only 2.07% protected in the province. This variant is primarily located on the east side of Vancouver Island and the northern Gulf Islands. It has been highly modified and not much of this subzone remains intact on Vancouver Island or the northern Gulf Islands. Any protected area that contributes to its protection may be considered important.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role of the park is to protect significant cultural values. Rebecca Spit was once a fortified First Nation's village and a midden site and as such, protects an under-represented portion of the cultural heritage of British Columbia.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Erosion of spit due to log removal	➢ Continue to work with community in maintaining public awareness regarding log removal. ➢ Establish monitoring program.
Lack of detailed knowledge of marine and cultural values	➢ Undertake inventory on marine and cultural values. Include First Nations in development of cultural inventory. ➢ In conjunction with First Nations, develop interpretative information on cultural values and appropriate behaviours.

Commercial extraction of resources (i.e. clam harvesting) from marine area	➢ Work with DFO to enforce shellfish closures to better protect marine values.
Recreational impact on park values	➢ Monitor levels of use and impacts to ensure protection of park values.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone - covers day use facilities in the park (approximately 6% of the park). The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment Zone - covers the rest of the park (94%) including the marine environment in recognition of the natural values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Provides minimal representation to the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection (SOG). This ecosection is under-represented in protected areas system (5.35%). Rebecca Spit provides only 0.54% to the overall representation of SOG but is important due to the fragmented nature of this ecosection and the limited opportunities available for protection. Rebecca Spit Park contributes 1.5% to the Johnson Strain Ecosection, which is under-represented at 3.7%. It also provides a minimal contribution of 0.24% to the under-represented Strait of Georgia *Marine* Ecosection (0.94% protected in total).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Contributes minimally to the representation of CWHxm1 which is under-represented in the protected areas system (only 2.07% protected). Rebecca Spit provides only 0.23% to the overall representation of CWHxm1 but is important due to the fragmented nature of this ecosystem and the limited opportunities available for protection.
Special Features	☒	Spit, mudflats
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	None known at this time
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Shoreline processes

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Walking, nature appreciation
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☒	Regional day use
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Shoreline processes and erosion

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Middens
Special Feature	☒	Fortified village site

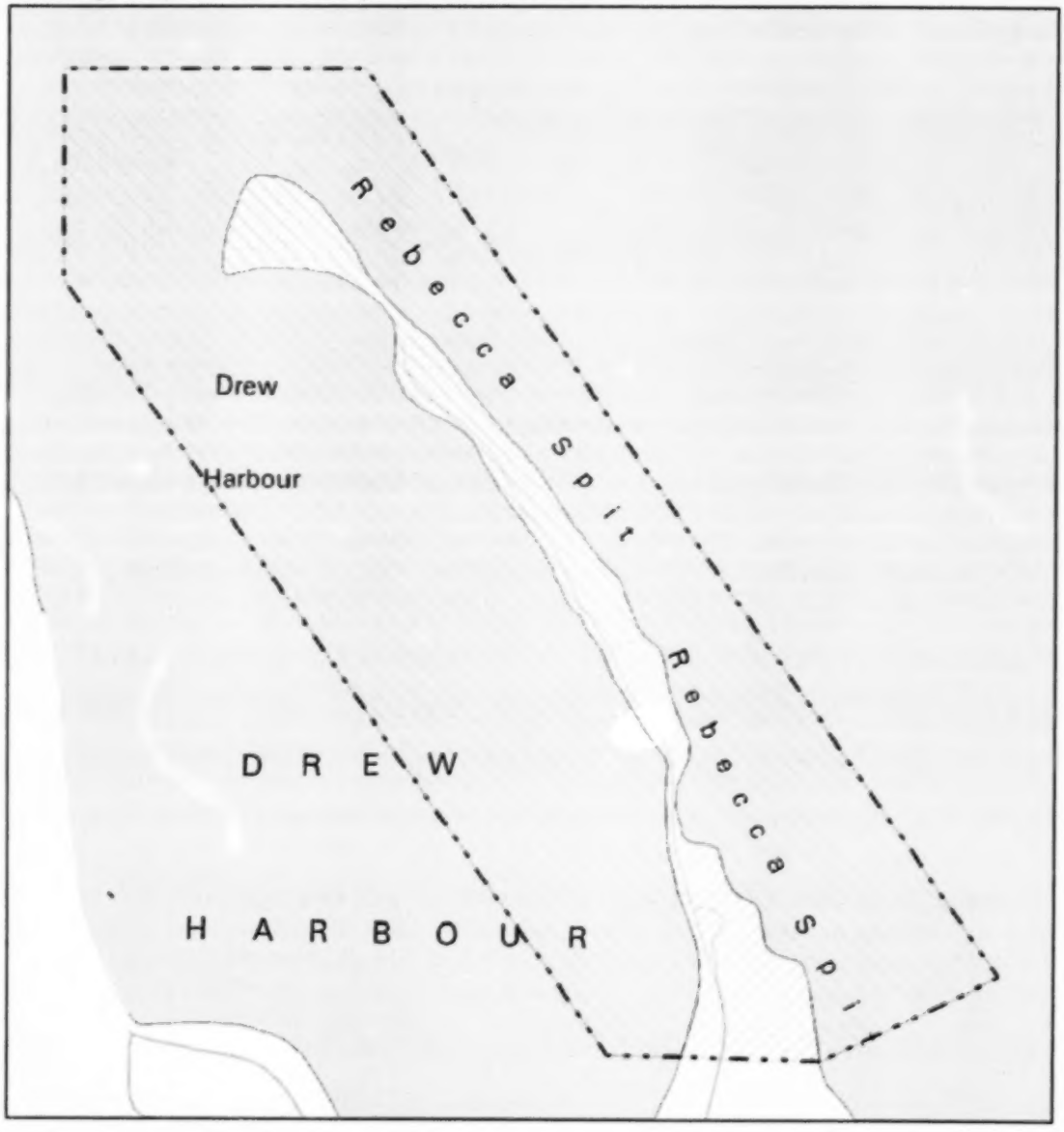
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of system of protected areas in the northern Gulf Islands that serves both terrestrial and marine visitors
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closure specific to the park: Pacific oyster and intertidal clams
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Erosion of spit; small size limits ability to protect ecosection and biogeoclimatic variant
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 177 hectares (22 ha upland; 155 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: July 7, 1959

Zoning Map - Rebecca Spit Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 500
m

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